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High 19°C/Low 8°C Scattered showers

SINGLETONS: THE NEW NORMAL
metroVIEWS

Sowing seeds of support

Philadelphia Pawly plants peas as part of an effort that saw 120 of her classmates at the Calgary Girls' School pitch in for Grow Calgary in support of food-bank users. Story in metroNEWS. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Bike track now open on 12 Ave.

TRANSPORTATION

Additional legs of the network will open in next few weeks

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

The first and longest leg of Calgary's new Centre City Cycle Track Network is set to open ahead of schedule Tuesday morning, while the other segments remain under construction.

Cyclists will be able to legally ride the physically separated lane along a 2.3-kilometre stretch of 12 Avenue South between 11 Street SW and 3 Street SE, said Don Mulligan, the city's director of transportation planning.

"It's open for the morning commute," Mulligan said, citing favourable weather as a factor in getting construction done early.

The city pledged to open the full downtown network by the end of June, but Mulligan said other segments could open earlier depending on construction.

Work continues on cycle tracks along 5 Street SW, as well as 8 Avenue and 9 Avenues South.

As part of the network, Stephen Avenue will also be opened to cycle traffic during the day.

The $7-million pilot project will be evaluated over the next year and a half with city council set to decide in December 2016 whether to keep, expand, alter, or remove it.

FOR MORE ON THE NEW 12 AVENUE CYCLE TRACK, see page 10

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Judge awards $15B to Quebec smokers. **Business**

Students question schools' proposals for tuition hikes

EDUCATION

New NDP government has promised absolute freeze

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Students reviewing multi-page proposals to hike tuition at Alberta schools say they're still not convinced the increases were necessary and continue to question why they weren't more involved.

In December, days before Christmas, the former Progressive Conservative government gave the green light to 25 of 26 so-called market modification tuition hikes. The program, which the Tories once said they were eliminating, intends to correct for anomalies in the post-secondary sector that see Alberta institutions charging less than similar schools elsewhere.

Before they were approved, many students cried foul that they had been left out of talks about the increases, despite a requirement from the ministry that they be involved. Some said they hadn't even seen the completed submissions sent on to government.

Metro has now obtained copies of all the proposals through a freedom of information request and supplied the documents to student groups for reaction. It should be noted, however, that the new NDP government has pledged to reverse the hikes and implement an absolute freeze on tuition.

Romy Garrido, vice-president external of the University of Calgary Students' Union, said she's not buying the arguments behind tuition hikes proposed by her school. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Even still, Romy Garrido, vice-president external of the University of Calgary Students' Union, said the proposals she reviewed didn't give any indication that affected programs were in dire financial straits and questioned why they were approved in the first place.

"It's really clear in some of the proposals that (the hike) was more value-added than necessity," she said, later adding: "Our institutions claim that it's supposed to make these programs competitive. We, as students, have always wanted affordability and accessibility. That comes first for us."

> **We ... have always wanted affordability and accessibility. That comes first for us.**
> Romy Garrido, U of C Students' Union

At her school, the approved $170-per-course increase in engineering proved most controversial. In its proposal, U of C administrators pointed out that their "primary competitor," the University of Alberta, had been approved for a hike in 2010, one that created a $4,000-per-student annual cost variance between programs.

As well, the proposal raised questions about program quality and said additional revenue could improve the student experience.

"While 73 per cent of recent Schulich graduates rate their overall experience as good or excellent, at five of our competitors that figure is above 80 per cent," the school wrote. "This is not surprising given the current gap in tuition between programs."

U of C also said the dean of its Schulich School of Engineering met eight times with students before the proposal was submitted — students, however, have questioned whether their input really made a difference.

U of C was also approved for tuition hikes in law and its graduate business administration program. It was, however, outmatched by the U of A, which was approved for five modifiers despite the province specifying each school could only submit three proposals.

"A lot of reasoning used for these proposals was quite flawed," said Navneet Khinda, president of the U of A Students' Union. "I think the (past) government approved them all because it was a political opportunity, rather than a good policy decision."

U of C's administration has remained steadfast that the market-modifications were necessary, but Mount Royal University has pulled back the reins on its three program increases, keeping them all to just $50 a course.

'STAY TUNED'

Talks of tinkering with tuition hikes approved by the previous government are ongoing, but Alberta's new advanced education minister said she's well aware that the clock is ticking with the fall school year coming.

In December, the Tory government approved 25 market-modification tuition hikes for programs offered by 10 schools. All told, students would be on the hook for up to $21 million in additional course fees this fall.

But the NDP government has pledged to roll back the increases and also implement an absolute freeze on tuition, taking things one step beyond the current cap on annual increases at the rate of inflation.

In an interview Monday with Metro, Advanced Education Minister Lori Sigurdson hinted that an announcement was coming soon on tuition, but she gave no specifics.

"There's certainly urgency in this matter because people are already paying (tuition) and September is coming close," she said. "What I can say to you is we're definitely on this file and we can't give you any specific details right now, but we're moving to that. I just want you to stay tuned."

Sigurdson said the end goal is to open the doors to post-secondary schools for more people, lowering the financial burden over time. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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REEVES COLLEGE

The Scotiabank Saddledome on the east end of downtown is now more than 25 years old. The Calgary Flames have been looking for a new arena and the team reportedly has its eye on a site on the opposite end of downtown, in the West Village area. METRO FILE

Nenshi pledges to 'engage the public'

ARENA

Mayor wants input before deal reached with Flames

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Mayor Naheed Nenshi pledged Monday to consult with Calgarians on the specifics of any potential deal with the Calgary Flames for a new arena on a site the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) is now looking to clean up from past creosote contamination.

"It's not going to be a deal that gets presented to the public with a ribbon on it," Nenshi said in an interview at Bloomberg's headquarters in New York, where he was travelling as part of a trade mission. "We will actually engage the public in discussions about what they think is right."

The site in question on the western edge of downtown, described by Nenshi to the American news agency as "very problematic," contains high levels of creosote contamination in the soil from past industrial activity.

CMLC, meanwhile, has issued a request for qualifications from environmental consultants capable of remediating the soil in the area, known as West Village.

"The City of Calgary is in the unique situation of being the largest single land owner within the project area," the request states, later adding: "Future redevelopment of the project area will entail a complete transformation of the existing situation to the west of 14th Street S.W."

Coun. Evan Woolley, whose Ward 8 includes West Village, said council asked CMLC to gather more information on remediation options as part of pre-existing, long-term plans for redeveloping the area, with or without a new venue for professional sports.

"This is what CMLC's thing is: How do we clean up this disaster of a mess, whether a stadium option comes up or not?" Woolley said.

> **We will actually engage the public in discussions about what they think is right.**
> Mayor Naheed Nenshi

Woolley also said it's his hope the city-owned development corporation behind the ongoing East Village redevelopment can do something similar for the West Village area, regardless of what the Flames do.

"East Village is an unmitigated success," Woolley said. "I'm keen to take steps toward seeing the vision of West Village actualized, in whatever form that may take."

Request for qualifications are typically the precursor to a more specific request for proposals from qualified companies to do the actual work.

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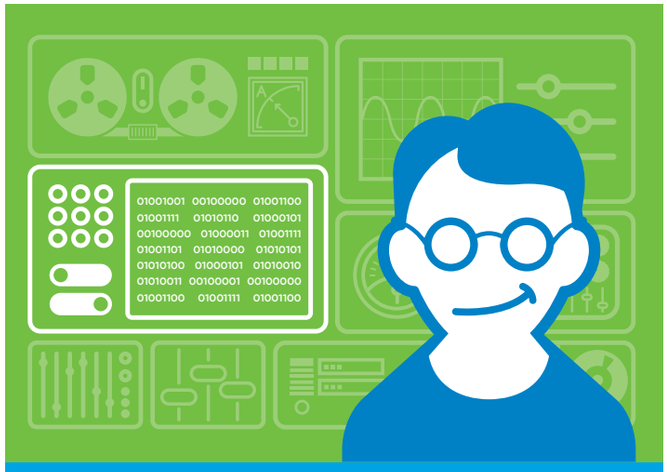

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While Calgary is still the top 20 cities in Canada to live in, according to a MoneySense survey, its precipitous drop is due to poorer health care access. METRO FILE

LIVABILITY

Calgary drops 14 spots in survey

While Calgary dropped down in the country's overall best places to live, we're still top-three in places to raise kids, according to a MoneySense survey released Monday.

The annual survey, which ranks 209 cities in a wide range of areas, including job prospects, affordability, weather, crime and more, saw Calgary drop from a 2014 ranking in the top five to spot 19, primarily due to access to health care, the survey stated.

The small city of Boucherville, Que. was in the top spot, followed by Ottawa and Burlington, Ont. St. Albert, Alta. was still in the top five, sitting in fourth place.

"Calgary may have fallen out of the top 5 down to No. 19, but gains in a few key areas like health care could quickly push it back to the top," reads the MoneySense.ca article.

"Roughly a fifth of Calgarians rely on walk-in clinics and emergency rooms when health issues arise because they can't find a family doctor."

Calgary did rank third on the magazine's list of places to raise kids, measuring such things as access and cost of daycare, along with access to sport and other activities. METRO

IN BRIEF

Man arrested for relation to fraud investigation

Anshul Edison Fernando, 39, was arrested at the Calgary International Airport Saturday in relation to a multi-million-dollar fraud investigation.

Joseph Edison, 66, and Stefanie Haase-Fernando, 37, have also been charged with forgery, and fraud and theft over $5,000.

The three were originally charged for allegedly using false charities to defraud an elderly victim of more than $8 million. METRO

Rundle home sprayed by bullets for second time

For the second time in six months a northeast Calgary home was hit by gunfire.

At approximately 1 a.m. Monday, police responded to the 600 block of Rundleside Drive NE after shots were fired at a home.

There was no description of the offender or offenders and no injuries reported. Police are investigating.

The home was also targeted on New Year's Day. METRO

Mourning parents get help from community

DOVER

Family hopes deceased son's stolen bike is returned

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Good Samaritans are keeping the pedal to the metal in hopes of recovering a stolen bike built by a child who died last year.

As well, at least one group has stepped forward to supply 30 bikes in place of the one Bryce Eyjolfson's folks had hoped to donate in honour of their beloved son.

Metro first reported last month that the 11-year-old's custom two-wheeled creation had been stolen out of the family's Dover shed. The bike had become a treasured keepsake for father Malcolm Eyjolfson and mother Kerri Workman after young Bryce died playing the dangerous "choking game" in October.

In recent days, efforts have continued to ramp up to recover the bike.

A Calgary police constable, who was the first to inform Workman that her son had died, has taken it upon himself to find the bicycle. During his off-duty time, he's been putting up posters around the neighbourhood, Workman said.

"If anyone has seen or knows the whereabouts of this bike, please contact Calgary police non-emergency number 403-266-1234," reads a copy of the poster, which features a picture of Bryce and his bright red bike.

"The bike holds great sentimental value."

Drew Riley doesn't know Bryce's parents but lives nearby and has taken the initiative to also put up posters at gas stations in the community.

"My nephew and niece used to live with me and their bikes got stolen — twice," he said. "We actually found them both times with neighbourhood kids. I figured if it was just punks breaking into things, which they do, then they will probably be biking each of these to 7-Elevens and corner stores."

Malcolm Eyjolfson and Kerri Workman with a photo of their son Bryce, who died in October, and his prized BMX bike, which he built by hand. Over the weekend, someone stole his bike from the family's shed. They're pleading for it to be returned. JENNIFER FRIESEN / METRO FILE

Kyle Ross, left, and Dylan Enns with 1-800-GOT-JUNK are seen with some of the bikes due to be donated in honour of deceased Calgary youngster Bryce Eyjolfson. CONTRIBUTED

Bryce dedicated his Monday nights for eight weeks last spring to building his bike through a program run by charity Two Wheel View.

The group's Earn-a-Bike program teaches kids basic mechanical and employment skills and those keen enough to see their work through get to take the bike home.

Before it was stolen, Bryce's parents had hoped to donate his bike to benefit another child.

But now it appears a larger supply of two-wheeled rides is on its way, after staff with 1-800-GOT-JUNK read about the theft and decided to help.

Now, the company has co-ordinated with Two Wheel View to ship about 30 bikes to the charity next week.

"It was quite sad, the fact that someone would steal a bike that was going to be donated," said office manager Carlton Hutchison. "Usually, we just recycle our bikes, but I thought here's a place we can donate them and the family could get something out of that because I knew we couldn't replace the one that was stolen."

Rick McFerrin, the charity's founder and executive director, said his team was also disheartened to learn of the theft. He said he didn't want to take anything away from the family's tragedy, but did welcome the support.

"We know that our program does make a difference in these kids' lives," he said.

Workman, meanwhile, said Monday she was overjoyed to learn of the shipment of bikes due to be donated on behalf of her son.

She said she hopes more kids will able to "share the same joy he did by building it piece-by-piece and building his self-confidence at the same time."

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

Student leaders in trouble

Three former executives from Alberta's distance learning university are in hot water after a vote last week found they broke student government regulations.

At a May 27 AGM for Athabasca University's student union, a motion was passed that found three student leaders, including recently elected MLA Jason Nixon, had violated the organization's bylaws.

Student Philip Kirkbride brought the motion forward, alleging former AUSU president Nixon, along with vice-presidents Shawna Wasylyshyn and Corrina Green, had made changes to the elections policy without issuing the required notice, along with interfering in the student newspaper.

"I brought forward the motion because I was tired of councillors ignoring the rules of the union," Kirkbride said. He says the bylaws were broken after the council allegedly failed to inform students about the annual meeting. "It was a big deal because winter semester students would have been present at the AGM but they moved it to the summer semester," he said.

Earlier this year, Nixon was at the centre of another controversy after the AUSU newspaper alleged his student council executive hastily approved a raise package that appears to make him the highest paid student president in Alberta.

Nixon, who resigned as president after securing the Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre seat in Alberta Legislature, said he wasn't present at last week's meeting because he is no longer a member of the AUSU.

Nixon said he suspected the motion was made after council recommended shutting down the newspaper for an updated version.

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO EDMONTON

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DRINKING

Early alcohol serving hours return for Calgary Stampede

Calgary bars, restaurants, and lounges will again be allowed to serve alcohol as early as 8 a.m. during this year's Calgary Stampede, the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) announced Monday.

After piloting the "flexible" liquor-sales hours during last year's Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, the provincial regulator decided to renew the special exemption for booze vendors for the duration of the 2015 Stampede, which runs July 3 to 12.

"Licensees are expected to continue to offer service in a socially responsible way to ensure the safety of their patrons during these special hours," the AGLC said in a statement. "Licensees do not have to apply for this particular extension, which applies to early service only — closing hours for liquor service are not changing and all other rules guiding the service remain in effect."

Certain vendors, namely Class A, B and C licensees along the Stampede parade route, can request even earlier liquor-service hours of 7 a.m. or 7:30 a.m. during the parade day only, July 3.

Groups holding special events still need to apply for a liquor licence. METRO

IN BRIEF

PC party official sorry for weight comment

A southern representative for the Alberta Progressive Conservative party apologized for making an "insensitive remark" about the new health minister's weight.

Jordan Lien, the party's southern vice-president, posted his comments on Facebook in protest to the new NDP government's plan to ban the sale of menthol products.

"So if I'm understanding this correctly . . . our morbidly obese Health Minister Sarah Hoffman is going to ban the sale of menthol tobacco products in Alberta as of September," Lien wrote. Lien apologized on Twitter Monday. METRO

Body found near Banff

Police and a search-and-rescue team with Parks Canada recovered a man's body from the water in the popular Johnston Canyon area of Banff National Park over the weekend. Police received reports of an unconscious man in the water at about 5 p.m. Sunday and with the help of Parks Canada searchers recovered the body at around 6 p.m., Banff RCMP said in a release.

The body was transported to the Calgary for an autopsy and police continue to investigate.

RCMP said they do not plan to release the name of the deceased. METRO

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Cayley Wocknitz was flashed while going for a walk in the Acadia area on May 21. While she didn't feel overly threatened by the incident, she felt it was important to report the flashing to the Calgary Police Service. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Police investigate naked encounter

ACADIA

'That just hits me as very sad,' woman says of flasher's effort

Morgan Modjeski
Metro | Calgary

It was around 10:30 at night when 26-year-old Cayley Wocknitz was going for a walk in Calgary's Acadia neighbourhood and a whistle caught her attention.

That's when it happened.

A young man believed to be in his early 20s emerged "out of the shadows" and exposed himself.

"He kind of had his pants down and he was making the appropriate jerking-off motion," she said.

Wocknitz said she first thought the man was urinating, but after she realized he was attempting to show her his penis, she simply ignored him and continued to walk home.

The man, however, walked into the street and continued to masturbate.

"He was looking for some sort of reaction from me and when I didn't give it to him, he felt the urge to go and expose himself on Acadia Drive and that just hits me as very sad," she said.

While Wocknitz said she wasn't "overly concerned" about being in danger, she felt it was important to report the incident to police.

"You have to make the community what you want it to be," she said. "If something is concerning to you and you see it, then its up to you as a citizen to report it."

She also hopes the report will help prevent future instances of harassment.

"I'm not sure if this guy just needs counseling or if he just needs a healthier outlet for his sexual urges, but I think that nipping it in the bud is important," she said.

While flashing can escalate to more violent sexual behavior, Det. Ren Lafreniere, a veteran officer with the Calgary Police Service's sex crimes unit, said it's extremely rare.

"Usually they get caught fairly early on, especially because they're so impulsive," he said.

"Traditionally they get off on the surprise and the fear that they caused these victims who see them," Lafreniere added. "Some women just look at them, kind of laugh and walk away and that kind of ends it for them, because it's not the reaction they're looking for."

Despite the fact flashing seldom leads to more violent behavior, he said it's important the incidents get reported.

"They're not minimal investigations," he said.

"They're certainly something that we can link to other crimes."

CRIME MAP

Sexual offences

While it doesn't detail the nature of the offence, the Calgary Police Service's Crime Map indicates there have been four 'sex offences' in the Acadia community in the past three months.

Anyone who witnesses a flasher is asked to call the Calgary Police Service at 403-266-1234 or to contact Crime Stoppers.

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INVESTIGATION

Search continues for missing Calgary man

Three weeks have passed, and the Koester family is still without answers regarding the whereabouts of Rodney Koester, who was last seen in Calgary May 1.

"Three weeks... that's a long time," Rodney's sister Christina Koester said. "It feels like a year; it honestly does."

Usually hearing from her brother a few times a week, Christina said a prolonged absence like this is out of character for him.

Our main concern is finding Rod because his little boy needs him in his life.
Christina Koester

She said one of her biggest worries remains Rodney's two children, one of whom has a learning disability and Treacher Collins syndrome, a condition affecting the development of facial tissue and bones in the face.

"We've spent months and months in the hospital by that child's side — he wouldn't just walk out and not contact us," Christina said.

Christina said she was the last person to see Rodney after she dropped him off at the Calgary Alpha House Society May 1. Struggling with a fentanyl addiction for the past year, Rodney had told Christina he was going to try to get better.

Getting a call from Rodney on Mother's Day, Christina said he told her he couldn't get admitted into the Renfrew Recovery Centre and had relapsed.

The Koesters haven't heard from Rodney since.

Calgary police said the investigation is ongoing and they are following up on leads.

ANNA BROOKS/METRO

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New mom Carrie Meanley, right, and her baby Anna visit with a Calgary Health Link nurse. ANNA BROOKS/METRO

Health Link launches 811 service

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Centre saves new mom from potentially fatal condition

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Getting medical help in Alberta is now only three-digits away with the launch of Health Link's 811 calling system.

Melissa McDougall, site manager for the Calgary Health Link Centre, said like 311 or 911, those seeking medical assistance will find the process much more efficient compared to the former 10-digit local numbers.

"It's a lot easier to contact us now," McDougall said.

"It's easier to remember, and it's aligning with other call centres across the country."

New mom Carrie Meanley spoke to the importance of the Health Link phone service — it may have saved her and the life of her baby, Anna.

Meanley had been having abdominal pains around 33 weeks into her pregnancy, but wanted to avoid an unnecessary trip to the hospital.

After a tele-triage session with a Health Link nurse, Meanley was admitted to the hospital with HELLP, a potentially fatal condition occurring during pregnancy.

"If I hadn't called, I may not have gone to the hospital and I don't know what would have happened," Meanley said.

"The nurse I talked to was so knowledgeable and reassuring. Anna was born six weeks early, but she's doing great now."

Last year, 48 per cent of callers in to Health Link were given advice that allowed them to care for themselves at home, while 16 per cent were told to go to emergency.

Other provinces like British Columbia and Saskatchewan implemented 811 services in 2012, and Health Link's McDougall said it's a big step forward for making health care more accessible for Albertans.

If I hadn't called, I may not have gone to the hospital and I don't know what would have happened.
New mom Carrie Meanley

Girls growing their interests for charity

FUNDRAISER

Food bank will benefit from seeds planted by students

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

It's not every day you get to plant a seed and watch it grow — unless you have a garden of your own — but for the students at Calgary Girls' School this is one of the first times many of them are getting their hands dirty.

It all started with a fundraiser to donate a million seeds. Now, three months later, about 120 girls are planting, watering and mulching Grow Calgary's land in hopes their sprouted seeds will make it to harvest.

"It's led to high engagement from the girls," said teacher Shauna Pasco. "Every day they wanted to go check on the seedlings that we were growing in the school and make sure they were doing well."

Students at Calgary Girls' School were hard at work planting peas at Grow Calgary's community garden. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Pasco said her students are very engaged in the process and excited to be outside of the classroom. It's the first season Calgary Girls' School has worked with the farm, but she said now that seeds have been planted Calgary Girls' School will visit Grow Calgary again to harvest in the fall and then again next year with a new batch of students to start the process again.

"Most of the food that's donated to the food bank is processed or in boxes," said Anjali Ford, a grade seven student who helped raise money for seeds.

She said Grow Calgary helps the Food Bank out with fresh foods and now her and her class are helping Grow Calgary.

"We're really able to connect with the work that we're doing and also I feel like I'm helping people." She added the farm is much more exciting than learning about urban agriculture in a classroom setting.

"It's pretty shocking, because we go to a lot of schools and there are so many kids out there across the city, we've seen thousands of kids," said Paul Hughes of Grow Calgary. "Just this year alone the level of awareness in these kids just floors you sometimes."

130 AVENUE SE

Man sought for sex assault in store

A man who groped a female worker in a southeast store is now sought by police for sexual assault.

At approximately 12:25 p.m. Tuesday, the man entered a store in the 4300 block of 130 Avenue SE, police said. He started chatting with a female staff member when he reached out and groped her.

As the woman protested, he exited the store when another customer came in.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers anonymously. METRO

DESCRIPTION

Police said the suspect is described as a 40 to 50-year-old East Indian man, 5-foot-5l, with brown eyes, black hair and a thick east Indian accent. He was wearing a maroon-coloured plaid shirt, glasses and smelled strongly of cologne.

IN BRIEF

Two charged with first-degree murder in Edmonton after remains found in Jeep

Two people have been charged with first-degree murder after the remains of Adrian Gregory, 30, were found in a burned-out Jeep at an industrial park in Strathcona County near Edmonton back in December.

Shane Tym of Chilliwack, B.C., and Sarah Posthumus of Tara, Ont. are facing charges of first-degree murder and attempted murder for the alleged shooting of Gregory and another man named Jeremy Pershaw, who was wounded in the incident. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE CYCLE TRACK NETWORK

The first new leg opens Tuesday. The others in the coming weeks. Here's what you need to know.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Vehicles are seen parked next to the western end of the 12 Avenue cycle track on Monday. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

1 Parking

While parking was prohibited during construction of the 12 Avenue cycle track, most of the on-street stalls will return once the route opens Tuesday. Along much of the route, temporary curbs have been pinned into the roadway between the cycle track and the adjacent motor-vehicle lane, to give drivers something to park their vehicles' tires against. Some stalls near intersections and in other areas required for the new bike lanes will be lost, however. The same time-of-day restrictions will also apply as before, with parking prohibited during peak commuting hours in the morning and afternoon.

Green paint indicating a potential "conflict zone" along the 12 Avenue cycle track. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

2 Green paint

Whether you're cycling, driving or walking, pay close attention when you come across green markings on the roadway near a cycle track. This is the city's new way of indicating so-called "conflict zones," where the risk of collisions is highest. "The green paint is there to identify areas where cyclists and motorists or cyclists and pedestrians cross," said transportation planning director Don Mulligan. "So we ask people, no matter which mode you're using, to pay particular attention to those green areas, because that's where the conflicts could occur."

3 Closed tracks

The 12 Avenue cycle track is the only part of the new network that will be open for use on Tuesday and, even before it opened, eager cyclists were already trying to ride on it, despite numerous barriers blocking their way. City officials are reminding cyclists that the other new legs of the network along 5 Street SW and 8 and 9 Avenues South remain under construction and closed to traffic — for now. "We're trying to reinforce that message," Don Mulligan said Monday. "In fact, we talked today about putting up double barriers to try and prevent people from using the cycle tracks that are still a construction site." The remaining cycle tracks, he added, will officially open "in due course."

A man tries to ride on the still-closed 12 Avenue cycle track on Monday afternoon. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

A bike signal on the previously built cycle track on 7 Street SW. METRO FILE

4 Bike signals

At higher-volume intersections, the city has installed bike-only signals to help direct traffic flow. The signals work just like regular traffic lights, with green lights specifically for cyclists, timed with the motor-vehicle lights to let each group proceed through safely. Tom Thivener, the city's cycling co-ordinator, said the signals should be fairly self-explanatory. "They're designed to be predictable," Thivener told Metro. "If you're biking in the network, just follow the signage and signals and you'll be fine." The city also plans to employ five "bicycle ambassadors" who will help teach motorists and cyclists the new rules of the road.

Will the cycle-track network be a success? Time and a whole bunch of data will tell. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

5 Evaluation

Once the full network opens, city staff will gather a host of information on its effectiveness. "We are collecting a lot of data about travel times for vehicles, about the volume of vehicles and the number of cyclists," said Mulligan. The data will be gathered using automated and manual counts and surveys of citizens, then compiled into a report for city council, who will decide what to do with the pilot project. City staff have set a variety of targets, including reduced collision rates, increased ridership numbers and a limit on how much added travel time people driving motor vehicles experience. For 12 Avenue specifically, the ridership target is to triple the baseline number of cyclists counted to the west of 3 Street SE and to quadruple the number to the west of 2 Street SW.

DETAILS

Five things to know about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Truth and Reconciliation Commons examining Canada's now-defunct residential school system is scheduled to release its final report Tuesday. Here are five things to know about the commission:

1. The commission was established as part of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, which also included money to pay for the commission's work.
2. The commission is led by Justice Murray Sinclair, Manitoba's first aboriginal justice. The other commissioners are Marie Wilson, a journalist, university lecturer and former senior manager at several Crown corporations; and Chief Wilton Littlechild, a lawyer and former Progressive Conservative MP.
3. The group is charged with collecting testimony from residential school survivors and compiling their stories into a historical record.
4. The records of the commission, including recollections from 6,200 former students, will be managed by the National Research Centre on Indian Residential Schools.
5. Residential schools operated for about 150 years, with an estimated 150,000 children spending time in them. At the height of the residential-school era, the government supported 130 such schools. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drummers pass Parliament Hill as they lead the Walk for Reconciliation, part of the closing events of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Sunday in Ottawa. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Let's commit to taking one more step together'

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

After report's release, many say more work still necessary

"We are all still here. We made it." For Romeo Saganash, that's the sentiment shared on the occasions when he gets together with fellow residential school survivors.

It's a sentiment that acknowledges the suffering endured by tens of thousands of aboriginal children, a suffering that many Canadians remain in the dark about. The country takes another step Tuesday toward confronting that dark chapter of its past when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Justice Murray Sinclair, releases its findings.

For five years, the Commission has been compiling the story of residential schools, where thousands of aboriginal children were sent, stripped of contact with their families, in many cases denied a proper education and sometimes subjected to physical and sexual abuse.

At least 150,000 First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth went through the residential schools. An unknown number — estimated to be in the thousands — died while attending the schools.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt hailed the "extraordinary courage" of former students who came forward. He said the historical record compiled by the commission will stand as an "achievement of national significance." Yet he cautioned that work remains to be done.

"On this day, let's commit to taking one more step together," he said.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde called on governments — as well as all Canadians — to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

"It's going to be hard to focus on reconciliation when we still have things like poverty that plagues our people," Bellegarde said, highlighting lack of access to safe drinking water, overcrowded housing, the high number of children in provincial care, missing and murdered indigenous women and girls as among the ongoing challenges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

POLITICS

Tories to support NDP motion to ban banks' pay-to-pay fees

The Harper government says it will support an NDP motion to abolish banking fees charged to people who receive paper bills.

Finance Minister Joe Oliver says the government is backing the motion to get rid of so-called pay-to-pay fees because people feel they are being nickeled-and-dimed by the big banks.

Oliver dismisses the suggestion that the Conservatives are following the NDP's lead on the issue, saying the government has already taken steps to lower banking fees.

The government's decision comes after a separate NDP motion to exempt feminine hygiene products from the GST won unanimous approval last week in the House of Commons.

> **We think this is unfair... You shouldn't have to pay a fee to pay your bill.**
> Andrew Cash, the NDP consumer protection critic

The government subsequently introduced legislation to kill the tax.

Last year, the federal government blocked telecommunication and cable companies from charging fees for paper bills, but banks were excluded from the legislation.

"Yes, we will support the motion because we understand that Canadians do not want to pay additional fees to the banks," Oliver said Monday after question period. "This is something that is actually consistent with what we have, in fact, been doing. We're not following (the NDP), they're following us."

Andrew Cash, the NDP consumer protection critic, told reporters he hopes the government passes legislation before the Commons rises for the summer.

Cash, who tabled the motion, said the banks collect about $180 million a year from people who receive their bank statements in the mail.

The fees, he added, target vulnerable communities, including seniors and those who don't have Internet access. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BUSINESS

New law aims to compel car recalls

Car manufacturers can't be trusted to recall vehicles voluntarily when they pose a safety concern, so the federal government is giving itself the power to force their hands, says Canada's transport minister.

Lisa Raitt said the government plans to introduce legislation that would, if passed, also give the government the power to impose limitless fines on companies that don't comply with a recall order.

"Leaving this decision-making capability entirely to manufacturers and importers alone does not serve the best interest of the public," Raitt said Monday outside the House of Commons.

53M

About 53 million vehicles around the world have been recalled amid safety concerns posed by Takata air bag inflators.

The law would also give the government the power to make car importers or vehicle manufacturers pay for repairs to recalled cars, and fix new model vehicles before they are sold in Canada.

The announcement comes on the heels of a major recall of 1.5 million cars in Canada over safety concerns from malfunctioning air bags. THE CANADIAN PRESS

VETERANS

Lawsuit on hold until after election

A long-running lawsuit, launched by veterans against the federal government, is off the docket until after the federal election, if not for good.

The two sides were in a Vancouver court Monday to agree to hit pause on the case until May 2016 to see what the impact is of the reforms the government has made to benefits for veterans in recent months.

Should the changes be to the satisfaction of the veterans who launched the suit in 2012, the case will be over, said the veterans' lawyer Don Sorochan.

A group of veterans had filed the class-action lawsuit to argue that modern-day soldiers were being discriminated against compared with those who fought in the world wars and in Korea.

In their defence, government lawyers outraged veterans by asserting that the federal government has no extraordinary obligation to those who have fought for the country.

Since then, a raft of new measures have been introduced, including new pain and suffering awards, expanded access to permanent impairment allowances for the most severely disabled veterans and retirement income security benefits.

The government has also introduced a bill that recognizes the so-called "sacred obligation" to veterans; that legislation was originally introduced on its own but has since been bundled into the omnibus budget bill.

Sorochan said with the new legislation and regulations already on the table, they are willing to give the government until May 2016 to see if the situation improves, taking into account there could be a new government entirely after the planned October vote.

In exchange, the Conservative government agreed to walk away from its appeal of the decision that allowed the class-action lawsuit to go ahead, but a judge instead simply ordered the case be put on hold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

REACTION

The lawsuit has been a black eye for the Conservative government, which sees itself as a champion for former soldiers and the military.

Some groups have even threatened to campaign actively against the Conservatives during this fall's election campaign.

This file image taken from a militant website associated with ISIL extremists, posted May 23, purports to show a suicide bomber, with the Arabic bar below reading: "Urgent: The heroic martyr Abu Amer al-Najdi, the attacker of the (Shiite) temple in Qatif," which Al-Bayan, ISIL's radio station, claimed responsibility for. MILITANT PHOTO VIA AP, FILE

ISIL radio infiltrates the West

PROPAGANDA

Group using American-style production to attract recruits

The announcer with an American accent offers an upbeat roundup of the day's main headlines: Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters seized control of a crucial Syrian city, extremists repelled Kurdish fighters despite coalition airstrikes, and two suicide bombers successfully carried out their missions.

The tone is National Public Radio in the United States. But this is Al-Bayan, the Islamic State radio targeting European recruits — touting recent triumphs in the campaign to carve out a Caliphate — and it represents a major headache for Western powers trying to curtail the ISIL influence.

All news is good news for Al-Bayan's "soldiers of the Caliphate." In this narrative, the enemy always flees in disgrace or is killed. The broadcasts end with a swell of music and a gentle English message: "We thank our listeners for tuning in."

The tension between the smooth, Western-style production and the extremist content shows how far the hardcore Islamic propaganda machine has come since 2012, when an aging Frenchman posed in front of a jihadi flag and threatened France in the name of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. The footage was grainy, with minimal production value, and released on a relatively obscure website. By contrast, Al-Bayan reaches thousands of listeners every day via links shared on social networks, helping to swell the ranks of Westerners — projected this year to reach up to 10,000 — fighting for ISIL in Syria and Iraq.

> **There could be 5,000 and within the year, there could be 10,000... We are facing not just a problem of security, but a problem of society.**
> Sebastien Pietrasanta, French lawmaker

In the time it took to bring the Frenchman Gilles Le Guen to trial, his European successors in violent jihad have overturned the recruitment script in ways that might impress a New York PR agency.

Islamic State videos come with thrumming beats, handsome clear-eyed young men and editing techniques that call to mind tourism commercials. A typical week of recruitment now includes multiple newscasts in three languages, except the "good news" is about suicide attacks instead of traffic reports and baseball scores. A polished video directed at French recruits shows trainees leaping through burning hoops and swinging across monkey bars over flames. A metastasizing network of tweets spills forth from the smartphones of armchair cheerleaders.

Cameramen themselves are heroes in this information war: Media, an unnamed fighter says in a video dedicated to these PR mujahideen, is "half of the battle, if not its majority."

An April video calling for doctors to join ISIL shows physicians in immaculate scrubs, as well as functioning medical equipment. It features a blue-eyed Australian moving about in a pristine neonatal ward, promising new recruits that they will be helping Muslims who suffer from "a lack of qualified medical care." The video has the feel of a daytime television public-service message.

In an exchange on the social networking service Ask.fm the same week, a person identifying himself as a British resident of ISIL territories promised newcomers free medical school. Meanwhile, in a series of tweets, another person purporting to be a Briton praises subsidized gas, free water and dental care superior to anything offered in the West.

"Naturally the arrogance will kick in & they would deny the truth and claim there (sic) way is better. Lol next time you pay your bill smile," the person said, according to a selection of tweets culled by the SITE Intelligence Group.

A handful of people show up repeatedly as key recruiters: A Glasgow woman who reportedly helps British girls reach Syria; a Dutch fighter who gives jihadi interviews and set up a Tumblr page; a blue-eyed Frenchman who appears in multiple videos calling on his countrymen to emigrate to ISIL territories.

"They want Europeans in general. They want anyone to come, to fight, to create the Islamic state, to make the caliphate," said Sebastien Pietrasanta, a French lawmaker who is spearheading nascent efforts to de-radicalize young extremist recruits. "We estimate there could be 5,000 and within the year, there could be 10,000 ... We are facing not just a problem of security, but a problem of society."

Anyone, from anywhere, can recruit for ISIL. A March study by Brookings Institute researchers J.M. Berger and Jonathon Morgan found more than 46,000 active Twitter accounts supporting ISIL in a two-month period. As soon as one account is shut down, more emerge.

Meanwhile, Western government warnings about the dangers of joining ISIL have barely dented the rate of departures. Those who have lived unhappily under ISIL rarely offer a competing narrative, in mortal fear of retaliation. And Western nations are having a hard time combatting rhetoric that they — and the Western media that ISIL so successfully mimics — are untrustworthy.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

Whatever they're looking for, ISIL promises

Islamic State recruits skew young. In France, the West's largest source of extremists heading to Iraq and Syria, they average in their mid-20s, with female recruits tending to be even younger. Whatever they are looking for, ISIL promises: Shariah law, a deeper purpose in life, a fight against a dictator, aid work, automatic weapons, pathological violence for those so inclined. "They are able to reach and find out what is important to these people, what motivates these people, and then they create an ability to fill that need, initially through the social media, Internet," U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An unidentified Chinese tourist, wearing a mask to protect herself against the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome virus, visits Gyeongbok Palace in Seoul, South Korea, Monday. Authorities say more than 680 people in South Korea have been placed in isolation after being in contact with those infected with a virus that has killed hundreds of people in the Middle East.

CHOI JAE-KOO/YONHAP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virus hits South Korea

RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

Hundreds in isolation

More than 680 people in South Korea are isolated after having contact with patients infected with a virus that has killed hundreds of people in the Middle East, health officials said Monday.

South Korea has reported 17 cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome since diagnosing the country's first MERS illness last month in a man who had travelled to Saudi Arabia. South Korea's cases have connections to the first patient, either medical staff who treated him or patients who stayed near the man at the hospital before he was diagnosed and isolated.

Also, the son of one of the patients ignored doctor's orders to cancel a trip to China, where he was diagnosed as that country's first MERS case last week. China isolated the South Korean man at a hospital, and Hong Kong authorities said Sunday that 18 travellers were being quarantined because they sat near him, but they were not showing symptoms.

South Korean Health Ministry official Kwon Jun-wook told reporters Monday that 682 people who had close contact with the patients, such as their family members and their medical staff, were isolated at their homes or state-run facilities to prevent the spread of the disease.

Ministry officials said the number could rise.

MERS was discovered in 2012 and has mostly been centred in Saudi Arabia. It belongs to the family of coronaviruses that includes the common cold and SARS, and can cause fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure. The virus has spread primarily through contact with camels, but it can also spread from human fluids and droplets.

There have been 1,167 cases of the virus worldwide and 479 of the patients have died, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRAN TALKS

Kerry heads home for leg surgery

Secretary of State John Kerry headed home Monday to Boston from Geneva, Switzerland, for surgery on his broken leg, as U.S. officials insisted that his injury would not hinder his participation in nuclear negotiations with Iran.

With an end-of-June deadline for an Iranian deal fast approaching, the 71-year-old Kerry left Geneva aboard a U.S. military plane accompanied by his orthopedic surgeon Dennis Burke and additional medical personnel. Officials said Burke is expected in the coming days to perform surgery on Kerry's right femur, which Kerry fractured on Sunday in a bicycle accident when he struck a curb and fell on a regular Tour de France route in France located southeast of the Swiss city.

Look fwd to getting leg set & getting back to @ StateDept!

John Kerry on Twitter

He had been receiving treatment at Geneva's main medical centre, HUG, and is to receive further care at Massachusetts General Hospital once he returns home. Kerry, an avid cyclist, had hip replacement surgery several years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA SCANDAL

Mbeki denies bribe paid for World Cup

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki denied his government paid bribes to secure the 2010 World Cup as the bid scandal began to encroach on the very top of the country's leadership on Monday.

"I wish to state that the government that I had the privilege to lead would never have paid any bribe even if it were solicited," Mbeki said in a statement from his office.

Mbeki was president at the time of South Africa's successful bid in 2004.

His denial came as South African soccer head and former 2010 bid leader Danny Jordaan reportedly told a newspaper that $10 million was paid to former FIFA vice-president Jack Warner's regional confederation in 2008.

According to the Sunday Independent newspaper, Jordaan denied that money — referred to in the U.S. Department of Justice's indictment into corruption in FIFA — was a bribe from South Africa via FIFA for Warner's backing.

Instead, Jordaan said it was to help Warner — implicated in a series of corruption allegations in the DOJ investigation into FIFA — with soccer development in his region, the newspaper reported.

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MORE COVERAGE, SPORTS PAGE 20

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Virtual reality getting real

TECHNOLOGY

Mainstream firms bringing VR to home video products

Virtual reality is creeping into our world.

Once seen as a tool for alien-blasting gamers, movie studios, television producers and artists are now adopting the technology, which immerses people in faraway realms using bulky goggles, house-sized domes, and smartphones.

Universal's Focus Features recently launched its first virtual-reality experience for movies, promoting the upcoming release of its Insidious: Chapter 3 horror flick. It's driving a truck around the United States, inviting fans to wear virtual-reality goggles. It's also sent out thousands of movie-branded Google Cardboard kits, which fold around smartphones to turn them into primitive VR viewers.

VR remains the realm of promotion. But content created now or for future films could also build value for home video products as more VR headsets are sold, says Matt Lipson, senior vice-president of digital marketing at Focus Features.

California Institute of the Arts students lie on the floor while watching a student project at the Vortex Dome in Los Angeles. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And the number of outlets for virtual reality is increasing.

Oculus VR, the company Facebook bought for $2 billion US and a leader in the VR headset market, is expected to start shipping a consumer version early next year. Samsung, meanwhile, is selling Gear VR, which works with Galaxy S6 smartphones. Sony will release a consumer version of its Project Morpheus, which connects to its PlayStation 4, in the first half of next year.

Facebook is testing what CEO Mark Zuckerberg calls "spherical video," or a flat representation of immersive content that could be navigable by mouse on its website. Google's YouTube launched support for "360-degree video" on Chrome browsers and Android phones in March and is providing VR camera rigs for its partners at its six studios. Fold-up Google Cardboard units can be bought online for as little as $2.46.

> **"We're just in the beginning stages of understanding."**
> Prof. Hillary Kapan

One virtual frontier to cross is creating environments for groups, not just individuals, in the same way that theatres provide a community experience. That possibility was tested out recently when eight art school students gathered under a dome in downtown Los Angeles. They were preparing an immersive show projected on a 19-foot-high hemisphere.

It's all part of creating a new cinematic language that doesn't just play out on the screen in front of you, but is interactive and immersive, said Prof. Hillary Kapan, who put on the class for the California Institute of the Arts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Google sets up simpler privacy control hub

Google is making its privacy controls easier to find and understand in an attempt to make its more than one billion users more comfortable about the personal information they provide. The simpler approach that debuted Monday features a redesigned "My Account" hub where all of Google's key privacy controls can be found. A new site at http://privacy.google.com will address a variety of issues in a question-and-answer format.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New CEO says Malaysia Airlines will recover

Malaysia Airlines' new CEO Christoph Mueller said the "technically bankrupt" carrier could break even by 2018 after it cuts 6,000 of its 20,000 staff, sells two of its A380 super jumbo jets and refurbishes its international fleet. The remaining 14,000 employees have been offered jobs in a new company that is being set up to take over the legacy Malaysia Airlines business.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

QUEBEC

Tobacco firms ordered to pay smokers $15 billion

A judge has awarded more than $15 billion to Quebec smokers in a landmark case that pitted them against three Canadian cigarette giants, an anti-tobacco lobby group said Monday.

Superior Court Justice Brian Riordan's decision was made public late Monday following years of testimony and another six months of deliberations, the Quebec Council on Tobacco and Health said in a statement.

The case marked the first time tobacco companies have gone to trial in a civil suit in this country and involved two separate groups of plaintiffs: some who became seriously ill from smoking and others who said they couldn't quit.

The plaintiffs included just over one million Quebecers who argued the companies were liable because they knew they were putting out a harmful product and hid the health effects of tobacco.

The $17.8-billion lawsuit was believed to be the biggest class-action ever seen in Canada.

Two of the big tobacco firms — JTI-Macdonald and Imperial Tobacco — reacted immediately and said they'll appeal the decision. The third is Rothmans, Benson & Hedges.

The industry argued people knew about the risks of smoking and that the products were sold legally and with federal government approval and strict regulation. JTI-Macdonald said Canadians have been well aware of the health risks since the 1950s and health warnings have been on packages for more than 40 years.

"We believe there are strong grounds for appeal and we will continue to defend our rights," said Tamara Gitto, vice-president law and general counsel for Imperial Tobacco.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 79.78¢ (-0.63¢)

TSX 15,074.13 (+60.04)

OIL $60.20 US (-10¢)

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Contact: Dora McMaster
Siksika Family Services
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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, June 2, 2015

the big number

£40M

Is the grant the United Kingdom pays yearly to the Royal Family. It's 15 per cent of the profits from the Crown Estate (government coffers keep the rest), but by law it never decreases. In fact, it's grown 29 per cent since 2012, sparking outrage and a review slotted for next spring. Canadians each pay $1.63 per year (up from 74 cents in 1999) for Crown expenses such as the Governor General and royal visits. Of course, the royals deliver a kingly sum to the U.K. economy each year in tourism and trade — £7 billion by one recent estimate. THE INDEPENDENT

Calgary drivers treat cyclists a bit too nicely

YOUR RIDE
Robson Fletcher

If there's one thing that bugs me about the way Calgary drivers treat cyclists, it's that they're just too darn nice.

OK, let me be more specific.

In certain situations, I've noticed that drivers in this city go out of their way to give right-of-way to cyclists waiting at stop signs or otherwise correctly yielding to traffic.

As someone who frequently drives and bikes in Calgary, this is a pet peeve of mine because, while it may be based on good intentions, it can actually create more dangerous conditions for all involved.

And I'm not alone in that assessment.

"I run into that same problem when I'm biking," Staff Sgt. Paul Stacey of the Calgary Police Service told me: "I'll be stopped at an intersection and I'm waiting for the traffic to pass because I know that I'm following the rules of the road, just as a car should, and then vehicles stop."

Mark McIlree, another regular cyclist in Calgary, encounters this all the time, too.

"It's like, I don't know, they feel guilty or self-conscious or something and they go ahead and they stop," he said.

I'm concerned that this kind of driver behaviour is motivated less by guilt and more by a genuine misunderstanding of the rules of the road. Especially with all recent public discourse focusing on bike-only infrastructure like the downtown cycle track network, I think many motorists forget cyclists in most situations are supposed to behave like — and be treated like — other vehicles on the road.

While it's not such a problem on a quiet side street if a motorist with the right-of-way slows down and waves through a cyclist who is waiting at a stop sign, the same actions on a busier route can create major risk.

McIlree said he often crosses Edmonton Trail, which has two lanes of traffic going north and two lanes going south. If a southbound driver stops and waves him on, it'll often lead to another, northbound driver doing the same.

Now, traffic is held up by drivers, yet he still can't safely cross because cars could be travelling in either direction in the east- and westbound lanes of traffic. The stopped cars obscure his sight, to boot.

"I don't know if the other guys are going to stop, and I don't have the right of way," McIlree said. "Sometimes I'll sit back a bit from the intersection so that doesn't happen," he added. "Or I'll look down at the ground to avoid making any kind of eye contact with the drivers to stop that from happening."

Sgt. Stacey said incorrectly yielding to bikes can make other drivers angry at stopped drivers and the blameless cyclist who prompted it.

Many motorists forget cyclists in most situations are supposed to behave like ... other vehicles.

"If everybody knew the rules, it would flow that much better," he said. "The bottom line is, when you see a bicyclist at an intersection waiting, say at a stop sign, they're following the rules of the road as a car would. So, by stopping, you could actually create more of an issue than if you were to just proceed because clearly the cyclist gets it, and they're waiting for the vehicles to pass."

Robson Fletcher covers municipal affairs for Metro Calgary and regularly drives, bikes, and walks in the city.

metroview

Down with singlism: One-person families are the new normal

Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

Thanks to singlism, is it any wonder I've become an amateur therapist?

After all, I'm recently single and dating. And by that stroke, at 37, I'm again part of the singleton trend: the expanding army of those who, by choice, divorce, mental health challenge, bereavement or other circumstance, walk in the door at night and greet (as in my case) a cat, or a dog, a television, an iPad — whatever it may be — as long as it's not another human.

This is not just a trend. Hipster beards are a trend. The singleton is a full-scale shift to a new normal. And therein is the problem: part of the rise of the singleton is the rise of singlism, a pervasive form of discrimination that is finally visible to many. But it isn't new. I've been living with singlism my entire life.

The U.S. is home to 90 million unmarried people and 150 million who live in one-person households. Most singletons are under-35 millennials or seniors who have lost a spouse.

Which brings me back to amateur therapy. It's unsurprising that dating similarly aged single women includes a lot of counselling. Many have tried to satisfy societal expectations: long-term relationships, kids, marriages, only for it all to shatter. While objectively happier single, subjectively they feel ashamed.

Here's why I'm not surprised: living alone is easy. Being told by society you're wrong, weird or missing out? Less so.

Author Bella DePaulo coined "singlism" a few years back. It's pervasive in tax policy, coffee-shop conversation, popular culture and deeply held beliefs. Consider what you would think if you encountered a never-married 37-year-old man. Selfish? Childish? Immature? Incomplete? Lonely? That's singlism, folks.

Don't worry, I'm used to it all. I've been single a lot in my 30s, and I'm an only child, too, the other kind of singleton that gets you labelled a weirdo.

To cope, I challenge singlism in a playful way. To friends having their first child, I ask if they'll stop at one. Despite their being busy, broke or unhappy, their answer is always no — "They need a playmate." Funny, I tell them, since only children, like adult singletons, are becoming the norm.

Also funny is while this happens, a 2015 Pew study shows Americans' "ideal family" size has shrunk: 48 per cent of respondents said two children is ideal. But get this: while only children are everywhere, only three per cent of respondents said one child was ideal — just larger than the two per cent who said no children at all.

I see this as proof social expectations and beliefs lag a generation behind social realities. Singletons are the reality. Singlism is the next discrimination that needs to go.

Rosemary Westwood will return Wednesday.

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Your essential daily news

Global's fall lineup includes Supergirl, Limitless and Late Show with Stephen Colbert

Inside the EDM scene

MUSIC

Mutek brings best of techno to Montreal

Jesse Ship
For Metro Life

Californian transgender techno artist Rrose sits in a skin-tone bodysuit in a box while passers-by gawk in Montreal's cosmopolitan Place Des Arts.

Just inside, Japanese multidisciplinary artist and choreography Hiroaki Umeida dances wildly on stage in front of a pixelated snowstorm as part of his Holistic Strata performance.

The act is moving and surreal: The eye is drawn into the chaotic display as his body is jolted with electric stabs of a DSL modem gone haywire.

Welcome to a snapshot of the Mutek festivities, a five-day celebration of electronic music discovery and audio-visual art installations, which just wrapped its 16th year on Sunday.

While EDM has become the hottest genre in the last few years and has only begun to crack the mainstream, Mutek has been exploring the business of techno music for more than a decade.

Techno acts like Berlin's Lucy and abstract visuals of Robin Fox and Atom™ stole last Thursday night's shows using a combination of drones, synths and moving tones to induce personal catharsis.

Friday night at the Metropolis is dominated by thundering mechanical techno with live performances from Berlin's Berghain super-club resident, Steffi.

"It's rare that something is curated this way," said John Tejada, L.A.-based 20-year veteran techno DJ, producer and what you call a seasoned "gear head" in music production circles.

"Mostly at festivals you get a field or sandy areas and different stages. There's not many even in Europe where things are so overhyped and you have a mixture of different venues."

Mutek is an unofficial kick-off to Montreal's festival season, attracting electronic music pilgrims from as far as Europe and the U.S. The on-vacation attitude dominates as fans dress to feel as comfortable and colourful as they wish.

Mutek is very much an urban festival in that attendees travel between well-kept venues like the Metropolis, a converted movie theatre turned music venue or the two story Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC).

The neighbouring Théatre Maisonneuve in the Place Des Arts was also integral part of this year's Mutek.

Avant-garde composer Tyondai Braxton, who collaborates with Philip Glass, unveiled his HIVE1 performance there early Saturday evening as part of the A/VISIONS series.

"The mixture of venues makes it really interesting. You're not bouncing around stages — you have big variety and a unique look to every venue," said DJ Tejada, who often feels the grind of the jet-set life as a touring performer.

"You're not waiting an hour for a port-a-potty or drink tickets. It's civilized. I feel like I'm on vacation."

If you don't recognize any of the names of the artists, that's OK.

Music discovery is a part of the Mutek mission said Montreal's Juno-nominated Poirier who has performed a handful of times since 2002 under his name as well as his other project, Boundary.

"Even for me, there's always stuff I don't know," he said. "My friend was complaining that there were no big names he recognized, but I told him, 'This isn't about names, this is about discovering new music.'

"People trust the festival, they are excited and understand the privilege to be able to see new acts, or ones they've never heard of."

A Mutek show at the Musée d'art contemporain. RUNG DUNG NGUYEN/MUTEK

HOT ACTS

One to watch: Patricia (pictured)

Chicago's Max Ravitz's current incarnation has seen his name rise, thanks in part to his debut EP Body Issues.

The Local: Poirier aka Boundary

Poirier is a product of Montreal, and his fascination with Caribbean and African music has seeped into his experimental reggae and dance-hall interpretations.

Global Superstar: Kode9

Kode9's Hyperdub label defined a generation of electro and dubstep, setting the stage for today's bass-obsessed all-stars.

World, meet Caitlyn Jenner

COMING OUT

Bruce Jenner transformed on Vanity Fair cover for July

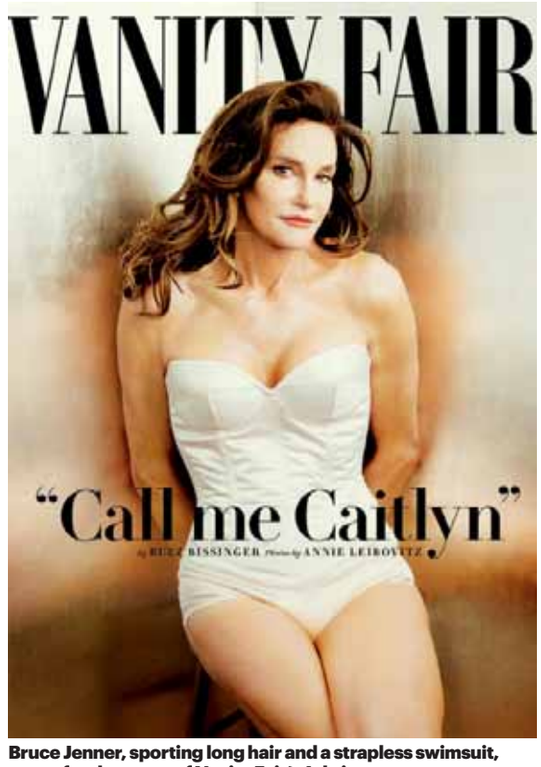
Bruce Jenner's transition is complete.

"Call me Caitlyn," declares a headline on the July cover of Vanity Fair, with a photo of a long-haired Jenner in a strapless corset, legs crossed, sitting on a stool. The image was shot by famed celeb photographer Annie Leibovitz. Inside, more images depict Caitlyn in gold lame, a black bustier and a cleavage-baring, off-the-shoulder gown.

Caitlyn Jenner also debuted a new Twitter account with: "I'm so happy after such a long struggle to be living my true self. Welcome to the world Caitlyn. Can't wait for you to get to know her/me." In about three hours, the account had more than 860,000 followers.

According to the magazine, which took to Twitter with the cover Monday, Jenner spoke emotionally about her gender journey: "If I was lying on my deathbed and I had kept this secret and never ever did anything about it, I would be lying there saying, 'You just blew your entire life.'"

The cover photo was shot at Jenner's Malibu, Calif., home and comes on the heels of her two-hour ABC interview with Diane Sawyer in which Bruce Jenner confirmed the transition. The much-anticipated 20/20 interview on April 24 was watched by more than 17.1 million viewers.



Bruce Jenner, sporting long hair and a strapless swimsuit, poses for the cover of Vanity Fair's July issue.

Prior to the unveiling of Caitlyn, Jenner had said he preferred the pronoun "he," but Vanity Fair contributing editor Buzz Bissinger, who wrote the story, refers to "she."

The Olympian who married and divorced reality show "momager" Kris Jenner has appeared for years on Keeping Up with the Kardashians. Jenner's own still-untitled docu-series chronicling her transition is scheduled for the same network, E!, beginning July 26.

"Caitlyn doesn't have any secrets," Jenner narrates. "As soon as the Vanity Fair cover comes out, I'm free."

Bissinger, the "Friday Night Lights" Pulitzer Prize winner, said in the lengthy magazine story that he had unfettered access to Jenner, both before her transition and after. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mad Max Barbie hits eBay

If you want a Barbie doll version of Imperator Furiosa — Charlize Theron's badass Mad Max: Fury Road character — there's only one place to go: eBay. There's only one doll in existence — currently being auctioned off by the artist who crafted it — and oh man, is it a cool-looking toy! So, as they say, how much would you pay? Bidding closes Friday, so think fast. NED EHRBAR/METRO

GETTY IMAGES

PUBLISHING

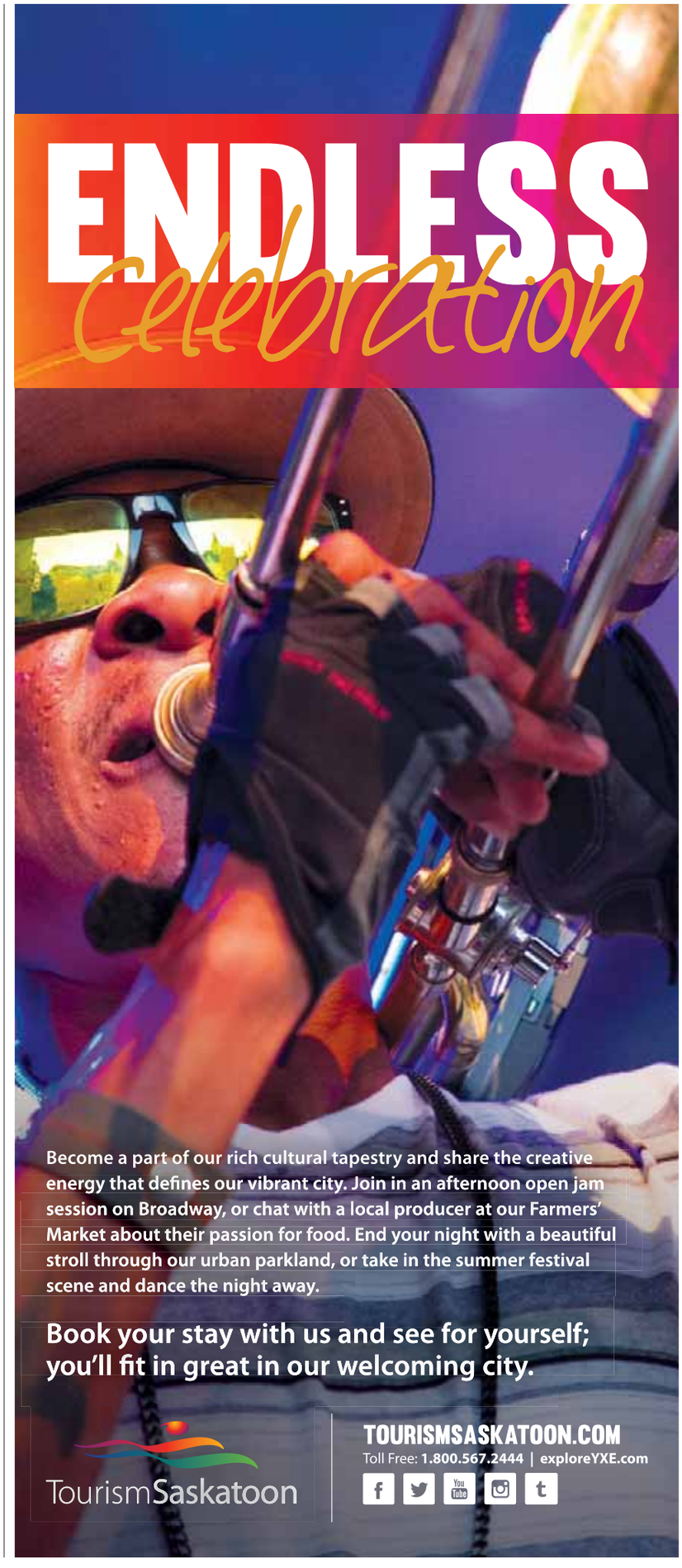
Fifty shades of passé

Assuming you're not completely sick of all things Fifty Shades of Grey-related just yet, author E.L. James is eager to keep trying. James announced that she's releasing a new version of the Twilight-inspired best-seller later this month that retells the story from Christian Grey's point of view. So, American Psycho — but with less murder.

"Christian is a complex character," James says in a statement.

"And readers have always been fascinated by his desires and motivations and his troubled past. Also, as anyone who has ever been in a relationship knows, there are two sides to every story."

We really should have seen this coming, honestly, since Stephenie Meyer did it with Twilight — retelling the story from Edward Cullen's perspective in Midnight Sun. I can't wait to not read it. NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD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Our social network anxieties

FRIENDSHIP

Building a new circle of friends takes time and focus

URBAN ETIQUETTE

Ellen Vanstone

After moving to a new town, it's important to evaluate potential friendships before jumping into them. ISTOCK IMAGES

Dear Ellen,
I just moved to town and I am attending a new school. I am finding it difficult to make new friends as it is late in the year and everyone has already established their friend groups. How should I go about finding people to hang out with? — Abbey

Dear Abbey,
I feel for you — you're in a tough situation that may not have a quick fix. The good news is that you're blessed with an understanding of human behaviour, which augurs well for great friendships to come. You can see there are tons of potential friends right in front of you — but that even nice people are creatures of habit. They find their groove and settle into it, and it might take time to work your way into their established social scene.

In the meantime, make the situation work for you. As an outsider, you have a unique opportunity to observe the groups and friendships around you. Take this time to figure out who the quality people are and which of them measures up to your level of insight and intelligence. You can also use this time to figure out what *you* are truly interested in — pursue your interests with a passion and you'll inevitably connect with like-minded souls.

Good luck, and let us know what happens!

To Lisa, who wrote in to say it's difficult to make introductions when you forget the other person's name:

Excellent point. I still cringe at the times I've gotten some people's names totally wrong. If you can't remember the other person's name, simply cut the conversation short and move on without making any introductions. Alternatively, train your friends to jump in and do it for you — i.e., if you're with one friend and you run into a new person, nudge your friend to introduce themselves as well as ask the new person: "And what's your name?" If all else fails, you can always resort to honesty: "Hey, sorry, I'm having a brain freeze — what's your name again?"

To Lada, who wrote in to ask if you should introduce friends or family passing by in the background while you're on a Skype call:

If your onscreen friend can see other people lurking behind you, and if those people are listening in or distracting either one of you, then yes, it's more polite to introduce them. Even if the background friends/family/roommates are obnoxious busybodies, it's still nicer for your Skype friend to know who they are so that he or she can now ignore them personally.

Need advice? Email Ellen at scene@metronews.ca

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Preemptive action

OPINION

Controversial rapper banned over lyrics

SOUND CHECK

Alan Cross

Because I was travelling, I missed the debate on whether rapper Action Bronson should perform a free public show during NXNE in Toronto.

By the time I got home, it was settled: a petition against Branson's violent and misogynist lyrics had scuttled the gig.

This whole thing left me unsettled and confused. While I understand all the objections to the things Branson raps about, I was also annoyed at the censorship side of it all. Is this an example of mob rule? Or did the public rise up and demand that decency be protected in a public space?

So I did what I always do when I wander into the weeds in these sorts of debates: I asked my wife. I can always trust her to tell me when I'm being an idiot — and because her second favourite f-word is "feminist."

"Should Action Bronson be allowed to perform at NXNE?" I ask.

She shrugged. "Sure. Why not?"

"But his lyrics!" I sputtered. "They're vile and awful. They just feed into the misogyny women have to deal with every day and the notion of rape culture. Shouldn't there be a line drawn somewhere?"

"People are missing the point," she said. "The real issue here is the venue. Yonge-Dundas Square, a publicly funded space that has specific policies in place and has a right to exercise them. This isn't a pure free speech issue. We'd probably have the same conversation if Eminem, Marilyn Manson or any other controversial performer were booked into the square.

"But if Action Bronson were being banned from performing anywhere at NXNE, THAT would be a problem. But if he's got a gig inside a private venue that has its own policies and standards — well, fill yer boots. And if someone hears something they consider hate speech, they're free to make a complaint."

She continued. "Here's the problem. AB was banned because of something he might have performed — even though he hasn't performed the material at the heart of this controversy on this tour. It was a pre-emptive strike against someone many people hate."

"Now consider this. If you can shut down Action Bronson for the things he might say about women, couldn't you shout down a theoretical YDS performance by Amy Schumer for any offensive things she might say about men?"

Wise woman, my wife.

Oil dip drags down GDP

ECONOMY

Worst of downturn likely over, experts say

The ugliness isn't over for Alberta's oilpatch, but the worst of it has likely passed, observers said as Statistics Canada posted some gloomier-than-expected economic data.

"I think the mood and apprehension was far worse in January than it is now," said ATB Financial chief economist Todd Hirsch. "That said, you wouldn't call the current environment bright."

> **You wouldn't call the current environment bright**
> Economist Todd Hirsch

The Statistics Canada figures showed the Canadian economy contracted by 0.6 per cent during the first quarter on an annualized basis — the worst performance in nearly six years and the first dip into negative territory since 2011.

The discouraging news underscores the major role Alberta and its energy sector play in the Canadian economy, Hirsch said.

In June 2014, the U.S. benchmark crude price averaged $105.79 US a barrel. By January of this year, it had shrivelled to just $47.22 — a drop of about 55 per cent.

For several weeks, West Texas Intermediate crude has been locked in the $55 to $60 range, but few in the oilpatch are celebrating as many projects need a higher price than that to turn a profit.

At the beginning of the year, many were fretting about the prospect of $30 oil, Hirsch recalled.

"I think we really need, as Albertans, to guard against falling into too much pessimism," he said.

"I think this is going to be a garden-variety downturn, but nothing like some of the epic recessions we've seen in the past."

On Thursday, the Conference Board of Canada said a recession in oil-centric Alberta is unavoidable this year, but it won't be as bad as the 2008-2009 downturn.

The Ottawa-based think tank is expecting the province's economy to shrink by 0.7 per cent in 2015 before growing by a modest 1.1 per cent next year.

The board expects 24,000 job losses in the construction and mining sectors, which would, in turn, hurt the housing market and retail sales.

Alberta's unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent in April, better than the national average of 6.8 per cent.

Pumpjacks pump crude oil near Halkirk, Alta. Statistics Canada indicated a drop in Canada's GDP last month and experts point to a downturn in the oil and gas industry as a main culprit.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scott Smith, market analyst with Cambridge Mercantile Group, said most oilpatch players "have their hatches battened down" and have already made most of the cuts to spending and jobs they'll need to ride through the slump.

But that doesn't mean the industry is out of the woods yet, he said.

"I don't think we've seen the final flow-through effects of job losses in the oilpatch. I think there's a bit more pain to come, but I don't think it's cataclysmic at this point unless something really bad happens with oil in the next three to six months." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Western premiers mull diversification
Canada's western premiers discussed ways to diversify their economies in light of falling oil prices during a teleconference call yesterday. Both Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and B.C. Premier Christy Clark note their provinces rely heavily on resource revenue, but have had to find other ways to bring in cash with the slump in energy prices. Wall says potash and agriculture are helping to pay his province's bills, while Clark says forestry and liquefied natural gas will help finance B.C.

Crude oil production sinks to two-year low
Canada's crude oil production last month is estimated to be the lowest it has been in almost two years, a report by Barclays says. The British bank adds that a "perfect storm" of events, including wildfires and upgrader maintenance in Alberta, are expected to have cut average national production to 3.98 million barrels of oil a day in May after peaking at an average of 4.59 million barrels a day in January.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Defending champ Maria Sharapova lost to Lucie Safarova at the French Open

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IN BRIEF

Zuccarello speaks on his four days as a mute

New York Rangers forward Mats Zuccarello could not speak for four days after being hit in the head by a shot in the opening round of the NHL playoffs and sustaining a small skull fracture and some bleeding.

Three days after the Rangers lost Game 7 of the Eastern Conference final to the Tampa Bay Lightning, Zuccarello discussed his injury for the first time on Monday.

"I couldn't talk for a while, had a contusion, some blood in my brain. That affects a lot. Now I go to speech therapy. I'm getting much better. I couldn't say a word for four days. I feel much better," Zuccarello said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hammel, Cubs sink Marlins

Jason Hammel had a career-high 11 strikeouts in 6-2/3 innings, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Miami Marlins 5-1 Monday night.

With his start pushed back because of a cracked fingernail and a rainout, Hammel (4-2) pitched for the first time in eight days, and allowed one run, four hits and no walks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newton reportedly close to new deal with Panthers

Contract talks between the Carolina Panthers and quarterback Cam Newton on a multi-year contract extension are continuing and the sides are close to getting a deal done, said a person close to the negotiations.

The 26-year-old Newton, who has led the Panthers to back-to-back NFC South championships, is expected to command a contract in excess of $20 million per season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cam Newton GETTY IMAGES

Lavertu at the centre of attention and offence

STAMPEDERS

Second-year lineman to take over for departed Jones

Pierre Lavertu has big shoes to fill on the Calgary Stampeders' offensive line.

The 25-year-old from Quebec City takes over at centre for Brett Jones, who was the CFL's offensive lineman of the year in 2014 and the league's rookie of the year in 2013.

The Stampeders gave up the fewest sacks (26) and led the league in average rushing yards per game (143.9) last season.

Jones, from Weyburn, Sask., signed with the NFL's New York Giants in the off-season. Lavertu intends to prove he can be the man in the middle for the Stampeders.

"I'm working hard to fill that spot the right way," Lavertu said Tuesday on the second day of main camp. "I'm trying to not compare myself to Jones. I just want to reach that level of player. That's what coaches are expecting."

Stampeder head coach and general manager John Hufnagel swung a draft-day deal with the Ottawa Redblacks to get the first overall pick in the 2014 Canadian college draft.

Hufnagel used it to draft Lavertu, a three-time CIS all-Canadian and winner of three Vanier Cups with Laval University. Lavertu played centre for the Rouge et Or, but saw few game reps as Jones's backup last season.

Pierre Lavertu — the top pick in the 2014 draft — was used as the Stampeders' sixth offensive lineman last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lavertu got on the field playing other positions on the line, including a pair of starts at right guard. He was on the game roster for Calgary's wins in both the West Division final and the Grey Cup.

> **We feel like he'll continue to progress the right way this year.**
> Stampeders offensive line coach Pat DelMonaco

"As a sixth lineman, you don't get a lot of reps, but when I had to go in on the line because of an injury, that was good playing time," he said. "Last year prepared me well. I played at guard and that was out of my comfort zone. I'm back at centre position. It's easier for me."

Centre has been called the choreographer of the offensive line because responsibilities include calling out blocking assignments and communicating pre-snap adjustments amid the noise and movement along the line of scrimmage.

"(Pierre) has picked up where he's left off as far as knowledge and that's half the battle with the centre position, in getting all his teammates on the same page," Hufnagel said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CORRUPTION SCANDAL

Report pegs FIFA's Valcke at centre of $10M bribe

A report says the high-ranking FIFA official who allegedly made a $10-million payment central to a U.S. probe into soccer corruption is believed to be Sepp Blatter's right-hand man, Jerome Valcke.

The New York Times reported late Monday that U.S. law enforcement officials believe Valcke, FIFA's secretary general, transferred the money in 2008 to accounts controlled by Jack Warner, the former CONCACAF president and FIFA vice-president who faces corruption charges in the U.S. The report cited unidentified law enforcement officials.

SKIPPING OUT

FIFA announced earlier Monday that Valcke had cancelled his planned trip to attend the opening of the Women's World Cup in Vancouver on Saturday "due to the current situation."

U.S. investigators believe the money was paid as a bribe in exchange for Warner and others voting to give the 2010 World Cup to South Africa.

The Times said Valcke said in an email that he did not authorize the payment and did not have the power to do so. A FIFA statement said the payment was authorized by the then-finance committee chairman, per FIFA regulations. The chairman, Julio Grondona, died last year.

The payment is at the heart of a probe that led to seven FIFA members arrested last week and a total of 14 people named in a racketeering indictment accusing soccer officials of accepting more than $150 million in bribes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, left, shakes hands with secretary general Jerome Valcke on Friday in Zurich.

MICHAEL BUHOLZER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Avocado and Chicken Wonton Bites

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

These avocado-filled wontons are perfect for a healthy teaser before the main. Recipe makes 12.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
- 12 small wonton or egg roll wrappers
- 1 avocado
- 3 Tbsp lemon or lime juice
- 2 Tbsp chopped cilantro
- 1 Tbsp low fat mayonnaise
- 1 garlic clove
- ¼ tsp cumin powder
- 3 Tbsp finely diced red onion
- 1 cup finely diced, cooked chicken breast
- ¼ cup diced tomato
- ⅓ cup shredded white cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese

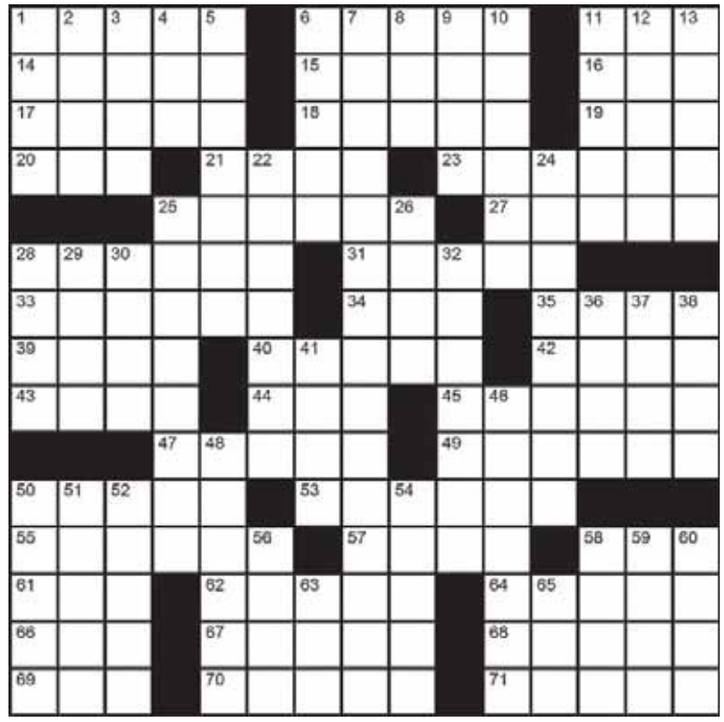
Directions
1. Preheat oven to 375. Spray mini cup muffin tin with vegetable oil. Place wonton wrappers in each cup, spray with vegetable oil and bake for 10 minutes or just until lightly browned and crisp.
2. In bowl of a small food processor, purée avocado, juice, cilantro, mayonnaise, garlic and cumin until smooth.
3. Add in onion, chicken and tomato. Spoon into wonton shells and sprinkle with cheese.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 81
- Carbohydrates 7.0 g
- Protein 5.8 g
- Fat 3.6 g
- Cholesterol 12 mg
- Sodium 84 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Zacharias _, Inuk director of "Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner" (2001)
6. Expect
11. Concealed
14. Cartoon style of Japan
15. Piquant
16. "Ghost" (1990) role, _ Mae Brown
17. Parish clergyman
18. "Coffee, _ _ milk?"
19. NBA-er, Jeremy _
20. "Greetings!" in ancient Rome
21. Biblical heirs, with The
23. Vancouver-set series of 2005 to 2008, "_ Arms"
25. Ms. DeWitt's of "Three's Company"
27. "The _ Professor" (1996)
28. Indirectly refer to
31. Kind of orange
33. Earth's third biggest island
34. 1901 Irving Bacheller book, _ and I
35. Fast food titan Ray
39. Coalition
40. Pickpocket trainer in "Oliver!" (1968)
42. Uncovered
43. Rave's partner
44. Actress Charlotte
45. Fix untidyness
47. The Who's "_ _ Explain"
49. Tatterly togged: 2 wds.
50. Variety of pear
53. "_' Fool" by The Guess Who
55. Senator for California Ms. Feinstein
57. Stirfry pans
58. Big noise
61. Inc., in England
62. Bird-related
64. Cad
66. Wrath
67. Change hair hue again
68. Call forth
69. _ & Breakfast
70. Smeltery waste
71. Speak, archaically

DOWN
1. Polynesian drink
2. Montreal's McGill, e.g.
3. Gracious
4. Ms. Thurman
5. _ Bear (Name by which British Columbia's provincial mammal the Spirit Bear is also known)
6. Empire of Mexico
7. Jaunts for just-a-few-days-off workers: 2 wds.
8. Cool Cucumber link: 2 wds.
9. "Use _ _ lose..."
10. Actor, _ Power (b.1914 - d.1958)
11. "The Planets" composer Gustav
12. _ box (Television)
13. Mr. DeVito
22. Protective daughter of ancient Egypt's sun god: 3 wds.
24. Canadian food retailer since 1982: 2 wds.
25. Haines _ (Yukon village)
26. Wrapped garment
28. Shortened word, for short
29. Kinks hit
30. Dianetics guru, _. _ Hubbard
32. Suzie _, Saskatoon-born Blues singer
36. _-_-tat-tat
37. Beaver State [abbr.]
38. Millennium divs.
41. _ _ E ("Bates Motel" network, spelled-out)
46. Exiles to Elba, for instance
48. Ocean liner company since 1840
50. Improvise
51. Gunpowder component
52. Weary
54. Canonical hour
56. At all
58. Marker on the water
59. Requests
60. Convene
63. Nuptials vow: 2 wds.
65. Lab eggs

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't force yourself to do something you don't enjoy today as it's unlikely you'll do a good job of it. Save your time and energy for something you want to do, even if you have to wait until the end of the week.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are never afraid to try something new but the full moon in wayward Sagittarius warns you to be a bit more cautious over the next few days. Take a risk if you must, but make it a calculated one.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you find yourself backed into a corner today you will have to talk your way out of trouble. If you sound sincere, even your rivals and enemies will find it hard to criticize you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you expect things to go wrong today they most likely will. However, if you expect things to go right, even the most difficult situations could go your way. It's not magic, it's your mind creating your world.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Most likely you will be praised to the skies today. Wherever you go, whatever you do: you'll hear only good things about yourself. Should you be suspicious? Yes, never trust anyone under the light of a full moon!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your best course of action today is to sit on the sidelines and refuse to get involved, no matter what disputes may be taking place. They are too complex for even a Virgo. Let others sort them out for a change.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't let anyone speak on your behalf today. They will most likely say things that could cause trouble. The more controversial your opinions the more you will need to explain them yourself.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today's full moon suggests you won't be thinking straight or feeling straight, so watch out. Above all, don't take risks with money — you'll lose out!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You believe that nothing can harm you, that you can push your luck to the limit and get away with it. Your self-belief is admirable but reality could make a large dent in your confidence. The full moon in your sign warns against taking risks.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There may be a dozen and one things you are worrying about at the moment but none of them are important. Compared to most people your existence is charmed. There is simply no need for negativity.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Focus on the big picture over the next 24 hours and don't let little things annoy you. No matter what goes wrong, in the greater scheme of things everything is progressing exactly as it should.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's full moon warns this is not a good time to take risks or liberties, especially on the work front. Something unexpected is likely to occur, be ready to adapt to whatever new power structure may arise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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			6				3	2

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